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Let's Be More Intelligent About Intelligence Oratory

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"IF NATIONAL security decreed secrecy, it should have been maintained," the Pennsylvania Congressman declared. "Not only are we feeding the enemy propaganda, but the revelations are subjecting this country to embarrassment among our allies. We are also losing their confidence."

Republican Congressman James D. Weaver, of Erie, said he was aiming these remarks directly at the Cuban and American personnel recruited by the Central Intelligence Agency who played a part in the 1961 Cuban invasion and who have been openly discussing their roles in the operation.

First-term Congressman Weaver's admonition also should be heeded by fellow representatives and senators with a lot more seniority who have dragged this country's supposedly secret military intelligence activities into the open in the continuing hullabaloo over the Bay of Pigs fiasco.

Friend and foe alike now know, for sure, that our CIA played a major role in this fantastically bungled invasion. It is public knowledge that the CIA not only armed and aided the Cuban rebels but recruited Americans, as professional soldiers, to help—and paid them well.

IT IS regrettable that the invasion failed and that Americans lost their lives. But it's about time the hullabaloo and exaggeration were toned down.

In the wake of Senator Dirksen's tub-thumping revelation that four Alabama airmen had lost their lives in the invasion, President Kennedy practically announced that they had been recruited by the CIA. He told his press conference that "they were serving their country," but "because of the nature of their work, it has not been on the public record."

The widow of one of the airmen told a newspaperman that her husband, who

work, was to be paid \$1,900 a month, plus \$500 for each flight. The Providence Journal acidly observed of this:

"The widows deny their husbands were soldiers of fortune, but if that kind of pay isn't a soldier's fortune, we don't know what it is. There are graves all over the world of American GIs who fought and died for annual pay that was far less than

these adventurers were to receive for a month's work. The chiefs of staff of the armed forces don't make any more, and the Navy pilots who took over from the CIA in the Cuban showdown last fall were paid much less."

On top of all this, it also has been revealed that the four airmen's widows are to receive a generous pension payment every month for the rest of their lives—so long as they do not remarry. Perhaps this is being paid by CIA, too. Perhaps not.

Never a man to miss a political trick, Arkansas Governor Faubus got into the act last week to charge that Arkansas National Guard pilots had been recruited for the Bay of Pigs invasion. "These patriotic Americans," Faubus orated, were "betrayed" by the Kennedy Administration. The Faubus charges have been unequivocally denied at Washington, and the commanding general of the Arkansas Air National Guard has publicly disavowed the Faubus statements as completely untrue.

MILITARY intelligence is a nasty and expensive, though necessary, operation. It is also dangerous—but it is a volunteer proposition and often a well-paid one at that. Americans got their first inkling of this when U-2 Pilot Francis Gary Powers testified before a Russian court that he had signed a contract with the CIA for \$2,500 a month to pilot the photographic spy plane.

At a time when ordinary Americans still are being drafted from the civilian life they prefer to serve in uniform and at a time when American military men, receiving ordinary military pay, are fighting, being wounded and dying in the jungles of Viet Nam, it is sheer demagoguery to have over the bad luck and misadventure of the hired soldiers of fortune at the Bay of Pigs.

AND Congressman Weaver's absolutely right: It's time that the Cuban and American recruits of the CIA quit blabbing everything they know about this intelligence operation. There is ever less excuse for the partisan advantage some politicians and members of Congress are attempting to get out of the Cuban invasion disaster.

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